

HOUSE BILL 3489

By Overbey

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 49,
Chapter 4, Part 9, relative to postsecondary
financial assistance from net lottery proceeds.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 49-4-902, is amended by adding the following language as a new subdivision, to be appropriately designated:

() "Nontraditional reclamation student" means a student who is at least twenty-five (25) years of age, and who re-enrolls in an eligible postsecondary institution as a freshman, sophomore or junior after July 1, 2008;

SECTION 2. Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 49, Chapter 4, Part 9, is amended by adding the following language as a new section:

Section 49-4-938.

(a) To be eligible for a Tennessee HOPE reclamation grant, a nontraditional reclamation student shall:

- (1) Not be ineligible for the scholarship under § 49-4-904;
- (2) Be a Tennessee resident and has been a Tennessee resident, as defined by regulations promulgated by the board of regents under § 49-8-104, for at least one (1) year immediately preceding the date of application for a grant, or for the renewal of a grant;
- (3) Be re-admitted to an eligible postsecondary institution as a freshman, sophomore or junior;
- (4) Have an adjusted gross income attributable to the student, not exceeding thirty-six thousand dollars (\$36,000); and
- (5) Apply for a Tennessee HOPE reclamation grant.

(b)

(1) A nontraditional reclamation student who receives a grant for one (1) semester shall reapply for such grant for the student's next semester of attendance at an eligible postsecondary institution. To be eligible for a grant for a semester beyond the first semester of receipt, the student shall continue to meet all eligibility requirements for the grant pursuant to subsection (a), and shall achieve a cumulative grade point average of 2.75 for all postsecondary courses attempted under the grant.

(2) Subject to the amounts appropriated by the general assembly and any provision of law relating to a shortfall in funds available for postsecondary financial assistance from the net proceeds of the state lottery, a Tennessee HOPE reclamation grant to a nontraditional reclamation student shall be one thousand dollars (\$1,000) per semester.

(3) A nontraditional reclamation student may receive a Tennessee HOPE reclamation grant until the first of the following events occurs:

(A) The student has become ineligible to receive the grant pursuant to the provisions of this section;

(B) The student has earned a baccalaureate degree;

(C) Five (5) years have passed from the date of the student's initial receipt of a Tennessee HOPE reclamation grant; or

(D) The student has been award a total of ten thousand dollars (\$10,000) under the Tennessee HOPE reclamation grant program.

(c) No retroactive award of a Tennessee HOPE reclamation grant shall be made under this section.

(d) Grants awarded under this section shall not commence prior to fall semester, 2008.

SECTION 3. The provisions of this act shall not be construed to be an appropriation of funds and no funds shall be obligated or expended pursuant to this act unless such funds are specifically appropriated by the general appropriations act.

SECTION 4. This act shall take effect July 1, 2008, the public welfare requiring it, and shall apply to students seeking postsecondary financial assistance from net lottery proceeds for the 2008-2009 academic year and academic years thereafter.